

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Monday, August 31, 2020

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Holliday, Sauer, Sorensen, Mather and Saucedo present. Chairperson Sorensen presiding.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Mather, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Muscatine County Fair Manager Kelsey Morris regarding a request to use the entire \$40,000 FY20/21 County allocation for operational expenses. Morris stated they were unable to have an in-person fair due to COVID-19 and building rentals took a huge hit March through July due to COVID-19. Morris stated they have a debt payment due September 30th. Morris listed several repairs and updates that have to be completed per their insurance. Morris stated she is asking for the full FY20 allocation be issued in October and that they be allowed to use the allocation from the County for operating expenses. Holliday stated Morris is staying current on the loan and even negotiated a lower interest rate. Tom Christensen, past president, stated Morris is doing a great job and having her on board has made a huge difference. On a motion by Mather, second by Saucedo, the Board approved the use of the entire \$40,000 FY20/21 County allocation to the Muscatine County Fair Board for operational expenses. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission member Lisa Wertzbaugher regarding a CLG grant application. Wertzbaugher stated this a continuation of the Old Jail project. Wertzbaugher stated the next step is finalizing the construction plans and let them out for bid. Wertzbaugher stated the grant would allow for the hiring of an architect to develop the construction plans and go out for bid. Wertzbaugher stated the grant requires a 60/40 match and the Commission has the funds for the 40% match of \$6,400. On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board approved a CLG grant application in the amount of \$9,600. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board approved Ordinance #08-31-20-01 rezoning approximately 6 acres in Seventy-Six Township from C-2 Commercial District to R-1 Residential District on the third and final reading. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture, regarding a bid for the Muscatine County Jail Hot Water System Upgrade Project. Nolan presented the following bids: Crawford Company - \$74,305.00; and JL Brady - \$96,000.00. Nolan stated two other companies declined to bid. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Mather, the Board accepted a bid from Crawford Company the apparent low bidder in the amount of \$74,305.00 for the Muscatine County Jail Hot Water System Upgrade Project. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Information Services Director Bill Riley regarding changing the County's domain name. Riley stated he has been working with County Auditor Leslie Soule regarding an election regulation requiring her election website to have a .gov domain. Riley stated he would like to change all County websites to the .gov domain. Riley stated he will continue to maintain the co.muscatine.ia.us domain and have it forward to the .gov domain for a few years. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Mather, the Board approved changing the County's domain name. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with Muscatine County Attorney Jim Barry regarding a proposed settlement agreement in the Morgan Brown litigation. Barry stated the settlement is ICAP's responsibility, but the deductible is Muscatine County's responsibility. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the County Attorney was authorized to sign a settlement agreement in the Morgan Brown litigation. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held with County Auditor Leslie Soule regarding her request to exceed the temporary full time employee election budget. Soule stated due to COVID-19, her office is expecting a much larger than normal turnout and she would like to bring the temporary staff in to work immediately rather than September 14th when they would normally start. Soule stated bringing the temporary staff on board immediately would cause the budget line for part-time help to go over by approximately \$3,000. The Board by consensus directed Soule to proceed with starting temporary full time employees immediately.

Discussion was held with Soule regarding her request to increase Precinct Election Officials hourly rates by \$2.00 per hour. Soule stated the last increase approved by the Board was in January 2014 and since then workers have had to do with an increase in technology and be willing to expose themselves to viruses and possible protests. Soule stated it has become increasingly difficult to hire workers at \$8.00 per hour. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board approved increasing Precinct Election Official hourly rates to \$10.00 per hour for Precinct Election Officials and \$12.00 per hour for Precinct Election Chairpersons. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, minutes of the August 24, 2020 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

Correspondence:

All Supervisors reported a letter from Iowans For Tax Relief reporting historical tax rates for the Top 15 Counties had increased an average of 19.3%, but Muscatine County's tax rates had only increased 1.6%.

All Supervisors reported a follow up letter from Public Health Director Christy Roby-Williams regarding COVID Testing of migrant workers in Conesville.

Saucedo reported communication regarding a Bi-State Affordable Housing Program.

Sorensen reported a call from Terry Holliday concerned about the opening of Keokuk Avenue and the culverts.

Holliday, Sauer, Mather and Saucedo reported an email from Sorensen regarding Keokuk Avenue.

Holliday reported a letter from the Pipeline Association.

Committee Reports:

Sorensen and Saucedo attended a Mississippi Valley Work Force Authority Training August 24th.

Mather attended a Decategorization Board meeting August 25th.

Saucedo attended a Solid Waste Management Commission meeting August 25th.

Saucedo attended a Bi-State Regional meeting August 26th.

Saucedo attended a West Liberty Economic Area Development (WeLEAD) meeting
August 27th.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board approved Ordinance #08-31-20-02 Adopting the 2020 Muscatine County Code of Ordinances on the third and final reading. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

Emergency Manager Brian Wright updated the Board on COVID-19 in Muscatine County.

County Attorney Jim Barry updated the Board on the re-opening of the Attorney's offices stating people have been compliant and they have had no issues. Barry stated he continues to work with the armory in order to use it as another alternate location for trials. Barry stated that a policy was set prior to him taking office which was intended to reduce the number of inmates due to COVID-19. Barry stated the policy was not working so he revised the policy to be enforceable when the person charged skips their court appearance.

County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on secondary road projects.

County Treasurer Amy Zybarth informed the Board the opening of the building has gone well for the Treasurer's Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 A.M.

ATTEST:

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors